

Biebrich, Sunday Aug - 1830.

This Sabbatarian resting day cannot be better broken dear Mr Chapman, than in commencing the recital you have claimed from us of our doings & adventures in the interval of our separation from you to our arrival at home. I flatter myself there will not be more than one such Sabbath during the journey; I should be very sorry to have the institution multiplied under similar circumstances, for there has not been even the gratification of going to Church, & I have had to feast my mind on the stores laid in on Friday, which, (however you may laugh at or question the sentiment,) does deserve some thanks for my present state of extreme resignation under all the faded visions of my German trip. It does not however demand any great exercise of philosophy to be contented in this lovely place overlooking the Rhine & the ranges of hills beyond, ^{with} the long islands, & the distant spires of Mayence, Broubach, & Gonsenheim, united to the pleasure of witnessing my Father's delight at being so far on his homeward road, & the glee with which he & Ph. also roam by the side of the Rhine, & paddle in the rafts, & dwell in the quiet, & the beauty, & the expanse; in fact, eman-^{in the} - cipation of their present location. Our journey here was as pleasant & prosperous as it could be just after parting from you all, which irresistibly tinged the beautiful hills & towers of the Burgtraf & Olmswald with a sombre hue.

Owing to a very long stoppage at Luingenbery we
could not get off from Frankfurt, at 6, but had
to wait till 8 past 8, at which my Father felt, deeply
aggrieved, & I had to endure the trial of seeing the
happy people getting out of or Hornberg while we
were left to while away our time in a Promenade
& Restaurant with a band of music, called
Mairulsh, from being on the bank of the river
(I presume) when I explore an unknown part of
the town. We found the Rheinischer Hof full but
have most comfortable quarters at the Hotel
Belle Vue close by. To day we have been wandering
in the extensive gardens belonging to the
Palace, & longed for Miss Weston to help appreciate
them. To go over the houses which
we neglected, for the sake of making an
expedition to Wisbaden which is within
4 miles of Biebrich, which is so like an
English watering place we were soon
tired of it even with its gay crowded Courts,
its treasures of Bohemian glass, carved
iron, ivory ^{still}, which we knew would awaken
even more greedy sensations in your mind
than in ours with reference to the Fair.

Antwerp. Thursday Aug 15. There was no getting any
further in my narrative at Biebrich, or continuing
it at any intermediate resting place; for all strength
had had to be concentrated on the labors of getting
onward, which you know from experience are
not trifling, in the route we have pursued. My Father
I find sent Miss Weston an announcement, of our
safety & convalescence on Sunday night, to Doulich,
hardly to trouble you to read a repetition, but having

instinctively taken up the same sheet of paper as
before, must hope you will not grumble at the waste
of time I am causing you. We got as far as Bonn on
Monday & had nothing beyond a couple of hours
rain to complain of during the sail (or steam). Still
the old cattle did not stand out so attractively or
the sun smile on them so cheerfully as when we
were conscious of sharing our enjoyment of them
with the companions we had left behind. I was
sadly at a loss for the supplies of poetic association
to which you ^{then} admitted me so generously. There
was something that took my fancy very much
in the stately University, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in length
at Bonn & I was gladly have explored all its haunts
the Minster outside it is decidedly ugly, &
Kuenthoven's monument in the square outside
nothing very striking. On Tuesday we went by
water to Cologne & then without resting in the
Town proceeded to Aix-la-Chapelle, where my
companions roamed about & ascended a high hill
while I contented myself with seeing the Cathedral
containing Charlemagne's tomb & the Town House
where the famous treaty was signed, & numerous
other Imperial, military, legislative transactions
(which I refer to with greater accuracy if Phoebe had not
taken out the "Guide Book") took place. Wednesday
brought us on by a tedious & slow journey to
Antwerp, where we have as yet owing to heavy
rain seen nothing but the fine streets & towers
of the outside of the magnificent Cathedral
which our windows overlook. Phoebe has energetically
rendered herself independent of the elements &

gone forth to make the best use of her time, I will
doubtless bring us back rapturous descriptions of
Hebden which are to be met with at every turn. It
is quite a consolation to me, after having been the
unwilling impediment to her seeing so many of the
attractions which were almost within her grasp
to have been able to facilitate her accomplishment
of this one object of her ambition. We are to proceed
to attend to-morrow evening, if the weather is
fine enough except the same evening. You shall
never see the last of us up to that time, I am not
without hopes of finding a line from some one
of your party. I can't tell you how much I live in
the past weeks of delightful intercourse it has
been our privilege to enjoy, & what a stock of deep
interests & sweet associations it has enabled
to treasure up to brighten many a sombre hour
that may be in prospect. And with the consciousness
that any one fragment of these treasured reasons
would have amply repaid all our efforts to do
it, I am shocked at myself for making such a
dreadful Mordecai of the disappointment of
losing the additional happiness of Mr. Follen's personal
presence round which all the dreams of my life
revolve at Heidelberg had been clustering till ~~it~~
the vision had become so defined ^{that} its dispersal
is like the sudden loss of a familiar friend, & re-
turns to accommodate the mind to the unexpected
My success in silencing ^{the} inward lamentations
which rise unbidden in the midst of every other
thought, I will sleep to-night with ease, by recalling
utter selfishness of the regret in all its aspects, to
far greater ^{moral} benefit than may accrue from the proper ends
The ~~delightful~~ belief that this consummation is
my longings would have been too great an accel-
eration of bliss, has as yet been but partial, &
with the ready made resignation which I have

been greatly enjoying, with wonder at my diffidence
I still more at the expedients I have resorted to
for freeing myself from its weight. There are
another set in operation however with which you
will have more sympathy, but combined with the
others, will not fail to be effective by the time
each home, & their concert in revolving means
of turning to the best account, all the advantages
of light & warmth your conversations have afforded
me. What tangible results may follow must
be left for time to develop, but it will be no
lack of effort on my part that will be told
of some measure of ray over convictions &
sentiments on the topics to which our lives are
dedicated is not infused into many with
whom I shall come in contact. Being as well
aware as I am of all the obstacles I have to
encounter, & the little strength & uncertain
powers I can bring to bear on any work, you
will not be astonished if no fruits appear
I will be contented with knowing how many
individual benefits you have conferred upon
me. I don't know how to thank you enough for
so unreservedly & patiently satisfying my queries
to be in possession of your views on many
points of deep moment to me. If for the help you
have given me to take more enlarged judgements in
ways which I can't now enter on for want of time
but which you will impart divine. It has
amazed me to find myself bold enough to intrude
my own crude, ill arranged ideas upon you
for the sake of having them put straight by

your skilful touch; but my want of humility
has made me the gainer of much. that I ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not}
~~was~~ ^{was} any account part with, even tho' ^{I should} ~~I should~~ ^{it}
your estimate of my sense to attain it. If I have
labored the kind readiness with which you seek
me, I feared you with enquiries or directed them
to points where your absence of taste for reference
to anything personal may have made them
less interesting you must please to forgive the
ack. & put a lenient construction on the motive
the absorbing sentiment wh. in such cases proceeds
our discrimination having been pure love of you
everything person connected with you. You
see, dear Mr Chapman, that your not being ac-
cording to your own description "forth coming"
has not secured you from being the forced recipient
of my superabundance. Your kind interest ^{is}
manifested in all that concerned me has brought
the inflictions upon you. I only wish I had made
like progress ^{to you} in self forgetfulness w^h would take
away the inclinations to adopt such a strain.
Thursday even' we have been devoting our selves
to the Cathedral, & the Docks, & Town House. The former
is I really think the most magnificent of all that
I ever saw, & grows upon me the longer it is con-
templated. It is most attractive to me outside ^{within}
from the exquisite architecture of extreme
height of the spire, which I find exceeds that of
Strasbourg. It is a fête day here which has given
us plenty of opportunity of hearing the organ, but
has interfered with our view of the pictures. I shall
with I hope give you herself a description of Rubens'
finest paintings this time, & a great many things
that we did not see; my Father has just been
pronouncing all pictures in all Churches to
be alike; & says there are a great many ^{drawings} to be

ly seen in different exhibitions at Bristol which
is much the same as the old masters; He seems
more delighted at having found some of his favorite
wheat-animals (which he wants Annie to
help ^{him} examine) in a dirty gutter, than at the
specimens of the fine arts by which he is surrounded.
Miss Weston would have been more than
ever confirmed in her opinion of our being
very unworthy of the advantages we enjoy in
passing thro' foreign lands. Still we continue
to reap pleasure, if not of the highest kind, on
our route. The shipping & the change of aspect
of the population in this great sea-port
is very interesting. The docks are very extensive
& crowded with vessels from all parts. The
American flag is very conspicuous among the
colored sailors abound. The stormy weather
makes my companions quail at the thought
of the water to-morrow, & renders it probable
that we may go to Calais instead of Ostend
for the sake of shortening the ^{voyage} in that case
there will perhaps be no time to add anything
to the post mark must tell its own tale.
It is very hard to separate from you by leaving
off writing tho' I know it is high time to stop
for your sake as well as my own. Please to
keep us informed of your welfare & all you can
of what concerns those dear to you, near & at a
distance, for we feel too strongly united to every
one to be able to be in ignorance. We shall be very

anxious to learn what are your next reports for
America, & that the intelligence will be more for
of the friend whose health was causing so much
solicitude. We will let you know whatever
is likely to interest you in our part of the world
& I hope not to forget your kind request to give particu-
lar of my own health. It is my correspondent always
scold me for omitting ^{the truth} -wise from a stupid
inability to define anything, ^{and} such a casualty as a
wounded foot or bad toothache, or state of imperfe-
ct powers for action benjoymen having become
from long habit too natural to attract attention.
But I am very grateful for the concern you all are
in it, & ashamed at its having from our close
quarters & other inevitable circumstances depend-
ed itself so much upon you; my great ambition
always is to keep it from molesting other people
which however can only be at times by withdraw-
ing from their observation. Please to give my
affectionate ^{love} to each of your party & accept a
great deal yourself. Emma shall have the
promised letter as soon as I have anything
impart worth her reading. My companions are
I find speaking for themselves. When you see
Mrs Follen please to offer her my kind regards &
tell her a word she let fall about the possibility
of coming to see us before her return to America.
She's a ray of light over the gloom of my present
disappointments. If she holds out any further
hope it will exert a most cheering influence.
I think we could make her & her party comfortable
& would at least protect her from compulsion
to do anything she did not wish. I facilitate
her accomplishing what she did desire. &
that much at least we can promise you.
Whenever you ~~direct~~ direct your steps toward
us abroad. But I must end, ever most affectly
yours
Mary Estlin